

WORDS OF HOPE

By Charles W. Godfrey,
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Moving household goods is big business in America. The natives are restless! The big city attracts small-town dwellers. Suburbs attract city dwellers. The country promises to satisfy the nostalgia for a simpler life style. The "upward mobility" urge drives families from place to place in search of better positions and greater success.

Young people often feel that a college or university in a distant state has to be better than the one in the next city. Often the urge to move results from a desire to run away from problems. "If I could only live in 'Middle-town'—surely things would be better for me."

Some families pull up stakes in search of greater opportunities for their children. Sometimes the migratory urge comes from a desire for new and different experiences. The rationalization may be somewhat as follows: "Other people are on the move—what am I doing here?"

Sometimes, moving to a new environment is the thing to do. The experience may be profitable and enriching. It may be a necessity for a multitude of good reasons. There are many cases, however, when the entire family would be better off to "stay put." Moving turns out to be an exchange of one set of problems for another. We take ourselves with us wherever we go!

A few years ago, a college professor received an invitation to join the faculty of a college 1,000 miles from where he was living. The professor wrote the president of the inviting college as follows: "I can think of many good reasons for coming to your campus, but I can't think of a single good reason for leaving where I am!"

Often reared people become obsessed with the idea that they must move. So they buy a home in an idyllic countryside, or overlooking the sea, or in a fragrant forest. Soon they discover that their friends of many years have not followed them to their new "paradise." Other unexpected problems develop and it is

not unusual for the retirees to return to the community where they lived and worked for so long.

Robert Schuler of the "Hour of Power" television program once distributed some little magnets to hold slips of paper on the surface of a refrigerator. On one of these magnets was the line, "Bloom where you are planted." This idea makes a lot of sense.

If you are planted in a situation where you have to work hard at a not too interesting job, it may be better to "bloom" there than to "wilt" in some less favorable situation many miles and many dollars away.

If you planted in a community where you have had distressing experiences—let's say a divorce or a business failure or an encounter with the law—don't feel that your problems will automatically disappear as the result of a change in geography. Unless you are certain such a change would be an improvement, perhaps it might be better to "bloom where you are planted."

If your children are running with the wrong crowd and causing you endless headache and worry, are you sure that a new location is the solution? It may be. But there are many ways of facing the issues where you are that will provide a more satisfying and lasting solution.

If you feel frustrated— if there seems to be nothing worthwhile you can do—it is possible that a new environment might make your frustration even worse. Have your tried to discover the reasons for your unhappiness? Perhaps the solutions are near at hand— even within yourself.

"Bloom where you are planted." Get acquainted with the needs of your neighborhood, your church, your community, your relatives. Find ways to interpret good intentions into constructive actions. Remember the command of Him who said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." You will be surprised at the opportunities that knock at your door if you are listening.

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year and a half during evenings and plans to complete requirements for an associate degree.

"I'd like to be in management one day, so I need that degree," Peters said. "If I move this time, at least I'll have something to show for it."

By the end of the week, Peters will find out whether he passed the final section—Quantitative Methods of a Certification Data Processing (CDP) exam, a national exam that is administered by the Institute for the Certification of Computer Professionals.

A computer programmer passing the CDP is similar to an accountant earning CPA (certified public accountant) status.

"Just talking with him, you can tell he has a varied background," said Business Computer Instructor Connie Ivey. "Especially in computers. I just wonder where he picked those things up."

He started with the field trip. Peters, so enthralled by his visit to UCLA, immediately enrolled in evening and weekend classes at Los Angeles Harbour College and spent the next two years studying computer science. He was 15.

"I was still in high school; they wanted you to have a 3.5 average before they'd let you enroll," Peters said. "I took nothing but computer classes. On Saturdays, I'd go in at 8 (a.m.) and stay until 5 (p.m.) even though class was over at 12. I lived for it."

After graduating from high school, Peters left California for Florence, S.C. where his sister lived.

"I wished I could have stayed near home, but conditions didn't permit," he said. "I wanted a place to get a good start. LA is rough if you don't have a degree."

Peters found plenty of work in Florence and managed to attend Francis Marion College in his spare time. He wrote application programs for a textile plant and held part-time jobs as a consultant for a computer services firm and as an accountant and programmer for an insurance company.

It wasn't long before he heard about an opening at Southeastern General and made the move without hesitation. Peters, 25, has been at SEGH for three and a half years.

"At the time, experience was more important," he said. "By getting in the first door, that led to everything else. At first I worked for less than the going rate but later on the salaries went up."

"At Southeastern, I found opportunity and I wanted to prove myself. The hospital had the latest in computer equipment."

His experience has been a help to other students in the computer program. And he has learned as well, especially in the area of software applications.

"What they've taught here has been very applicable to where I work," Peters said. "Especially in dealing with personal computers. I've been able to teach others where I work about applications that are becoming universal in the business world, like Lotus 1, 2, 3, and dbase manager."

"Six months ago I took Cobol I and II, which is working with mainframes; they're mostly used by big business, fortune 500 companies like IBM."

Once Peters has his degree, he'll be looking ahead. "They (SEGH) don't want to hold me down," he said. "If there's a better opportunity, they won't hold me back; they want the best for me."



Happy Birthday

Little Miss Brooke Coker Locklear celebrated her 7th birthday at Pembroke Elementary School with all of her classmates.

Brooke's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Gary Locklear of Pembroke. Every one had a good time at Brooke's party. She is in Ms. Joyce Maynor's class. [Photo by Luvenia Hunt]

'TIS WISE TO ADVERTISE



Happy Birthday

Steven Ray Huddleston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Huddleston of Pembroke celebrated his 16th birthday May 21 at Pembroke Elementary School. Steven baked his birthday cake. [Luvenia Hunt photo]

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